

THE PRESIDENT'S INTELLIGENCE CHECKLIST

14 SEPTEMBER 1961
~~TOP SECRET~~

1. Katanga situation

a) Sporadic fighting continued throughout yesterday. Our last information from the US Mission in Elizabethville, now incommunicado, indicated that the UN forces were still in control of key points, but were bracing for further attacks by European-led Katangan forces;

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50X1

c) in Brussels, the Katanga developments are likely to face the Spaak-Lefevre government with a severe test. His domestic political problems probably figured in Spaak's scheduling of a visit to Moscow, to begin next Tuesday.

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3. Dominican Republic

Yesterdays' funeral procession for a victim of the previous day's clashes produced no new violence in Ciudad Trujillo, but the opposition was still hoping to mount a general strike to force the ouster of Ramfis Trujillo and other leading members of the Trujillo family. Businessmen in the countrys' two largest cities, for the most part affiliated with the politically moderate National Civil Union, yesterday staged a commercial shutdown which may continue and spread.

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4. Berlin developments

A. We continue to see indications that the East German regime is planning new Berlin moves--possibly including publication of a draft peace treaty--timed to coincide with the 17 September elections in East and West Germany and the UN General Assembly opening two days later. East German press editors are on notice to expect an important announcement at that time. There are also reports that the East Germans plan to institute even tighter restrictions on access to East Berlin, including a temporary closure of the present border crossing points on 16 September.

5. Violence may be in offing in Ruanda-Urundi

Pre-independence elections in Urundi on 18 September and in Ruanda on 25 September could provoke intertribal clashes beyond control by the small Belgian security forces. The breakdown of public order would threaten the creation of a smaller-scale Congo situation.

6. Soviet Nuclear Tests

Yesterday there were two tests, [redacted] 50X1

[redacted] at Semipalatinsk and [redacted] 50X1

[redacted] Novaya Zemlya. [redacted] 50X1

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Another test has apparently occurred today at Novaya Zemlya. [redacted] 50X1

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NOTES

- A. The Soviet test vehicle, launched yesterday from Tyura Tam, impacted in the Central Pacific, approximately 6500 nautical miles from launch site. The type of vehicle involved has not yet been determined. 50X1
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- B. Souvanna Phouma continues to profess confidence in his ability to control the Pathet Lao although showing concern over their growing influence. In Geneva the Communists--this time the Chinese--have again hinted that, in the absence of an agreement, hostilities would resume in Laos at the end of the rainy season. 50X1
- C. The strengthening of Afghan and Pakistani forces in the Khyber Pass area continues. 50X1
- D. The US Embassy's soundings among its contacts within the Soviet intelligentsia indicate that many in this group have become alarmed by their government's resumption of nuclear testing. Before the announcement, that segment as well as the man-in-the-street generally viewed war as inconceivable. 50X1
- F. The removal of Prince Talal as Saudi Finance Minister on Monday threatens to undermine further the never stable financial situation. the break between King Saud and Talal rated as relatively progressive, came over the latter's proposals to set up quasi-representative governing bodies. 50X1

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Declassified in Part - Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2015/05/04 : CIA-RDP79T00936A000200290001-3

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WATCH COMMITTEE CONCLUSIONS--13 September

No Sino-Soviet bloc country intends to initiate direct military action in the immediate future.

Berlin: The Communists continue to allege Allied misuse of the air corridors. The possibility remains that the Communists may attempt harassment of Western civil air access to West Berlin.

There are no signs that either Pakistan or Afghanistan is prepared to compromise their current differences. Both sides have irregular tribal forces in the border area, and there is the possibility of a clash between these forces or between regular military forces.